



BRUTAL SLAYING BAFFLES POLICE

LATE BULLETIN: Fred Horsley, husband of Mrs. Maudie Lee, who was murdered during the early Monday morning hours, was still in custody of Torrance police on an open charge Wednesday afternoon. Det. Capt. Ernie Ashton stated that he would see the deputy district attorney first thing this morning, Thursday, to see if a complaint would be issued. Horsley maintained steadily that an intruder ambushed his wife and killed her.

Police are still trying to determine who the murderer is in the brutal killing of an attractive 35-year-old Torrance housewife.

Found lying in the kitchen of her home in a pool of blood at about 1:45 early Monday morning was Mrs. Maudie Lee Horsley, wife of Fred Horsley, 3221 W. 190th st.

There were severe strangulation marks on the side of the neck and several finger nail scratches on the face and neck. Death was apparently caused by strangulation, resulting from a blow which severed the wind-pipe, causing internal hemorrhage and strangulation, the autopsy revealed, according to Det. Capt. Ernie Ashton of the Torrance Police Department.

Three men were held for questioning, two of whom were subsequently released. Booked on an open charge of investigation was the dead woman's husband, Fred, 36.

Two other men, Dallas R. Morris, 19, of 1728 Abalone ave., Torrance, and Robert Lee Cody, 20, of Indiana, were picked up but then released, after being able to account satisfactorily for their whereabouts at the time of the murder, according to Ashton.

Morris, however, was re-arrested by Manhattan police on a \$105 traffic warrant.

Was Asleep

The husband stated that he was asleep when his wife returned from work during the early morning hour. She was an assembler (Turn to Page 28)



MINUTES AFTER THE MURDER

Mrs. Horsley's brother, William Coulter, 26, a deaf mute, cries on his brother-in-law's (Fred Horsley's) lap upon hearing of his sister's murder.

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MORE PARKING FOR DOWNTOWN TORRANCE

This house at 1517 Marcelina was taken away last week in order to provide additional off-street parking areas in downtown Torrance. Other efforts to provide more parking include the razing of the old fire station and the modernizing of the city-owned parking lot at Cravens and El Prado.—Press Photo.

Know Your Gold Seal Merchants

By DAVID MCGRAW

Gold Seal Merchants who are outstanding leaders in their particular fields have been selected for their integrity and honesty and are especially pledged to uphold the highest code of business ethics.

Displayed in their window will be a Gold Seal which is the symbol of satisfaction when shopping.

During the course of the 26 weeks this feature runs in the Torrance Press a biographical sketch of each Gold Seal Merchant will appear on the front page.



WILLIAM VAN BEEK and his son, Simon, distinguished natives of Holland, who own and operate the widely acclaimed **VERMONT DAIRY FARMS** at 22400 South Vermont loom as shining examples that from foreign shores flows unusual talent. Establishing Vermont Dairy Farms in January 1955, shortly after their oceanic voyage, the Van Beeks have seen the wheel of fortune whirl endlessly as their Dairy Farms burgeoned into a gigantic enterprise. Hinging their success on the hub of honesty, integrity, quality and satisfaction has reaped dividends for them. Fresh milk and cream and all their other dairy products come from their own cows. Another son, Ike, is associated with his father in the operation of the business.

BYRON PLASKETT, a noted native son, who owns and operates the highly rated **TELEVISION SERVICE CO.** at 1811 Torrance Boulevard, Torrance, assumed ownership in 1955, the concern having been established here since 1955. Highly skilled, an expert, honest, reliable technician, he was graduated from the National Schools in Los Angeles. He repairs all makes of televisions, epitomizing satisfaction on each job he undertakes. Good Will has ricocheted in his favor as a result. He and his wife, Barbara, who was born in Tennessee, have 4 children, Brenda, Sharon, Dianne and Gary, all attending school throughout the area. He has won the respect and admiration of all who know him. Success wears well on him and the community points with pride to his achievement.

88 More Parking Spaces OK'd

The council approved the demolition of the old police station (Cravens near El Prado) so that the area may be used for off-street parking purposes.

This action followed the recommendation of the city manager and Ralph Dorsey, traffic consultant.

The city has acquired property on Marcelina ave. adjacent to the fire station and is also clearing the area of the fire station area, this will provide 88 off-street parking spaces.

Dorsey did not recommend the removal of the Richfield gas station. There are already (Turn to Page 6)

City Council Regulates Bill Boards

Bill boards won't be cluttering up Torrance's landscape after all.

As a result of an amendment to the proposed sign law, the city will continue to control the erection of bill boards.

That amendment states that every bill board must first be approved by the Planning Commission whose recommendation then goes to the City Council. The council has the final word on approval or disapproval.

Councilman Bob Jahn, who last week went for a weaker sign ordinance on the grounds that some control is better than none, this week proposed the above amendment in order to protect the Torrance landscape as much as possible.

Mayor Albert Isen and Councilman Victor Benstead sided with Jahn. The ordinance will come up for second and final reading Tuesday.

Councilmen Willys Blount and Nick Drae opposed the stricter ordinance.

John Kesson, president of the North Torrance Civic Improvement association, submitted a petition bearing 150 signatures asking the council to protect the city against bill boards.

Commits Suicide

Charles B. Turner of 2024 Martina shot himself at his home Tuesday late afternoon, according to police. A wheelchair patient, he was apparently despondent over ill health.

Fitzgerald Appointed Manager of Chamber

Dick Fitzgerald has been appointed manager of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, it was announced today.

President John A. Ebbinghouse of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce stated that Fitzgerald will accept the position early in November. "With Dick Fitzgerald as manager, we expect to expand our numerous programs and to obtain solid accomplishment for the mutual betterment of everyone in Torrance," Ebbinghouse stated.

Fitzgerald who is 32 years old and vice-president of the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce, is presently manager of the Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce.

"I am naturally overjoyed with the appointment," Fitzgerald said, "as I consider Torrance to be the city with more potential than any other in Southern California."

"The unparalleled population increase from some 22,000 in 1930 to well over 80,000 today (Turn to Page 6)



DICK FITZGERALD... new manager

Saturday Last Day to Enter Contest, 4th Census Closing

ENTRY BLANK

NAME _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ Phone _____

My guess for the 1956 Official Population Census of the city of Torrance is.....

(Please Print or Type in above information)

Mail or bring this coupon to:

THE TORRANCE PRESS

1406 Cravens Ave., Torrance, Calif.

FILL OUT ENTRY BLANK AND SEND IN NOW!

UNOFFICIAL FIGURE READY WEDNESDAY

Torrance's fourth special census is about over and it will only be a matter of days now before the new population figure will be revealed, according to Benjamin Kundin's office.

All books should be in by Saturday and the unofficial figure will be released Wednesday. The official figure, coming from Washington, will be announced in about two weeks after that.

Because of the census bureau's quick work, the deadline for the Torrance Press census contest will be Saturday noon, October 20 (instead of Monday, October 22, as figured previously).

The contest winner will receive an all-expense paid week-end to Las Vegas or \$200 in cash. Second place winner will receive a portable TV set.

All you have to do is guess what Torrance's present population is, fill out the accompanying entry blank, and see that it gets to the Torrance Press.

The above prizes are being given away by the Downtown Torrance Parking association and Baker's furniture, sponsors of this contest.

There's nothing to do in this contest except guess—and you may guess as many times as you wish, as long as you use the official Torrance Press entry blank.

There are no other gimmicks involved—no merchandise to buy, no bottle tops to trade in, no trips to make.

Just fill out the entry blank with your guess and see that it gets to our office one way or the other.

This will be the fourth special census here since 1950. Since that time the population has multiplied as follows:

- 1950—22,201
- 1952—31,834 (January)
- 1953—44,914 (November)
- 1955—67,459 (September)

It has been estimated that residents are moving (Turn to Page 6)

LATE NEWS

CAR ROADEO: An all-events day, sponsored by the Torrance Police Car Club association, will be held Sunday, October 21, at the El Camino stadium parking lot, starting at 9 a.m. There will be 10 events. It's boy-girl, not stag. Trophies will be given away.

BUS LINE: Torrance bus lines have added the Suncrest park line No. 5, going into effect October 29. It will run every 40 minutes from 7:40 a.m. until 4:40 p.m. No Saturday, Sunday or holiday runs. Route: Carson to Western, 220th, Meyler, Ocean, Figueroa, 234th, Maine, 235th, Dolores, 236th, Catskill, 238th place, Panama, Sepulveda and back.

BURGLARY: George L. Spillman, 35, escapee from a (Turn to Page 6)

World's First Agricultural Plane Makes Maiden Flight

The maiden flight of the Transland Ag-2 airplane was successfully completed this week, bringing to a reality the boyhood dream of George S. Wing, president of Transland company and designer of the aircraft. The Ag-2 airplane is the world's first aircraft to be designed specifically for aerial application of agricultural and forest lands.

The test pilot, Robert "Bat" Masterson said, following the Ag-2's first flight, that after taking off in a remarkably short distance of under 400 feet with a gross weight of 4033 pounds he climbed conservatively to 2500 feet at a rate of climb of 1400 feet per minute at normal rated power.

All maneuvers were conducted with ease as the response to the controls' movements was smooth, effortless and with a feeling of a great reserve of power. The flight duration was 55 minutes.

"The visibility," commented Masterson, is the finest of any of the 35 different types of aircraft I have tested or flown." Masterson, who, incidentally, is a veteran combat pilot and a graduate of the Experimental Flight Test School at Edwards Air Force Base, anticipates completing the balance of the flight test program for CAA Part III certification by the end of the year.

The Ag-2, flying at slow speeds with the same responsive controls experienced at cruise, proved that the overall design equals or exceeds the expectations of the engineering talent which contributed to the aircraft's outstanding performance.

Five-Year Project

This five-year project brings to aviation and the aerial (Turn to Page 30)



BOYHOOD DREAM TAKES FLIGHT

Transland company's Ag-2, agricultural and forestry airplane shown during its maiden flight at Torrance. Designed specifically for all types of aerial application of dust and liquid chemicals, fertilizing, seeding, and forest fire fighting.